

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances;

a housing that functions as a layout tool, said layout tool selected from a group consisting of a straight edge, a gauging block, a ruler, or a combination thereof, wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface; and

a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, a nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising:

a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances;

a housing comprising edges dimensioned and configured to correspond to the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing, wherein said housing further comprises a

truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface; and

a squaring lip, wherein said squaring lip is disposed on said housing.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said wheel comprises a circumference, said circumference selected from a group consisting of a 12-inch circumference, a 16-inch circumference, an nineteen and two-tenths-inch circumference, and a 24-inch circumference.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall, said sidewall comprising measuring notches for measuring linear distances.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a sidewall comprising a length, said length selected from a group consisting of 1 1/2 inches, 3 inches, 3 1/2 inches, and 5 1/2 inches.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises a first sidewall adjacently disposed to

a second sidewall at an angle selected from a group consisting of 45 degrees and 90 degrees.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring distances, said method comprising the step of:

obtaining an apparatus for measuring distances, said apparatus comprising a wheel comprising incremental line markers for measuring distances,; a housing that functions as a straight edge, wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface,; and

a squaring lip.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of placing said wheel on a starting point on a surface requiring measurement, and rolling said wheel over the surface.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of determining the distance traveled by said wheel from the starting point, wherein the distance is ascertained by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of marking the surface at selected intervals indicated by said incremental line markers on said wheel.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of utilizing said housing to measure the sizes and angles most often encountered during framing.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a nail hole.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said squaring lip comprises a string groove.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said wheel.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a nail hole.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said squaring lip comprises a string groove.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing comprises an enlarged cutout, wherein said enlarged cutout permits a large portion of said wheel to be exposed for contacting a workpiece, and wherein said enlarged cutout provides an additional viewing area for viewing said incremental line markers of said wheel.

23. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said housing further functions as a gauging block, and wherein said housing further comprises a truncated flat front wall, said front wall enabling said housing to rest against a wall surface, and wherein said front wall is disposed perpendicular to a workpiece surface when said wheel of said apparatus is disposed upon the workpiece.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing further comprises plumb lines and roof pitches, and

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wherein said plumb lines comprise markings utilized to level said apparatus on a workpiece, and wherein said roof pitches comprise markings utilized to frame rafters and similar building components.